

Museums must  
sell their soul?

Page 6



New section

Teens Post

See inside



## Race for the gold

When Lin Qingfeng (below) won a gold medal in weightlifting at the 2012 London Olympics, media flocked to his hometown and first training school in Xiamen, where more than 60 child athletes are training hard to be the next Lin.

Even at their young age, when gold medals are still a far-away dream, the children's days consist of training and only training. This does not happen abroad.

China's powerful investments in less popular events guarantee it gold medals at the Games. But this year, the Olympics are bringing new scrutiny to a national system that has failed to bring sports to the masses.

Read more on Page 4



Zoo officials  
grab man's  
pet python

Page 2

TED talks  
tackle new  
ideas

Page 3

Film gets  
inside busiest  
police station

Page 5

Paint shop  
promises  
safe color

Page 8



# PSA lashes out at shark trade



By Niu Chen

WildAid China released a new public service announcement (PSA) opposing shark fin trade on July 18.

"Many of the most frequent shark fin consumers are rich and powerful businessmen and officials," said Huang Nubo, chairman of Zhongkun Group, who appeared in the PSA.

Huang said he and many of his peers believed eating shark fin and abalone was a symbol of success and social status.

"For many years, we thought shark fin soup and abalones were must-haves at every business dinner," he said. "Without them, we felt like we were losing face."

"When I look back, I feel ashamed," he said.

In addition to Huang, the PSA features top entrepreneurs such as Feng Lun, chairman of the board at Beijing Vantone Real Estate, Hu Baosen, chairman of the board at Central China Real Estate, Li Dongsheng, chairman and CEO of TCL Group, and Wei Xue, president of PRAP China.

Though more than 125 countries trade in shark products, Hong Kong accounts for more than half of all fin sales.



Peter Knight (left), president of WildAid, Wei Xue (middle), president of PRAP China, and Huang Nubo (right), chairman of Zhongkun Group.

Photos provided by WildAid

"About 95 percent of all shark fin soup is made and consumed in Asia. More precisely, in Chinese-speaking countries and regions," said May Mei, chief representative of WildAid China.

Consumer demand for shark fin soup remains a big incentive for shark fishing, with fins fetching more than 4,460 yuan (\$700) per kilogram.

While millions of dollars are spent to protect sharks, little is spent on fighting the demand for their parts and products. Unlike NGOs that concentrate on active

animal protection, WildAid focuses its efforts on multi-media campaigns designed to reduce demand.

To boost the effectiveness of its campaigns, WildAid recruits A-list celebrities such as Yao Ming and Jackie Chan to present its message and buys ad space on major networks such as CCTV.

According to WildAid's 2011 annual report, its campaigns reach as many as 1 billion China viewers each week.

"Our media efforts during 2011 could have used up more than \$200 million," Mei said.

"However, media companies supported us free of charge, and our celebrity spokespersons never asked for money."

WildAid China began targeting shark consumption in 2006.

According to a survey conducted between November 2005 and February 2006, more than a third of the respondents reported eating shark fin soup; 75 percent said they did not know it was made from shark fin.

A second survey conducted before the 2008 Olympics found that 55 percent of the respondents had seen Wild-

Aid's campaigns and 83 percent reporting ceasing to eat shark fin soup or reducing their consumption.

"Yang Lan [a journalist and entrepreneur who's been called 'the Oprah of China'] once told me that her son asked her to stop eating shark fin soup after watching our campaign," Mei said.

WildAid also targets high-end consumers of wildlife products. One of its projects in 2007 was a collaboration with AirMedia, operator of the China aviation network, to reach out to wealthy air travelers who are likely consumers of wildlife products.

"It's already somewhat normal to pass up shark fin soup in China's top cities. WildAid now needs to train its efforts to the second-tier cities," Mei said.

Two weeks before the new PSA, the Government Offices Administration of the State Council (GOASC) announced new guideline that would prohibit shark fin products from being served at official receptions within three years.

"We understand it takes time to finalize such guidelines. The government needs to weigh many things," Mei said. "However, it's a big step forward."

## Web exposure makes exotic pet owner lose his friend

By Liu Xiaochen

Tian Hui was forced to say goodbye to his pet golden python on July 27, when officials came to take it to the Yancheng Wildlife World in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province.

After Tian's story was reported by *Dushi Kuaibao*, a paper in Hangzhou, many netizens said they wanted to see the snake returned.

Because of its status as a Class I protected species, the snake had to be sent to Yancheng Wildlife World in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province.

However, Shen Cheng, a project manager at Wild China Film, posted an article on Guokr.com on Jul 29 saying in addition to being a Class I protected species, pythons can hurt people and their ownership is banned by

many other countries.

Shen said the golden python is actually an albino Burmese python, and that it is not domesticated.

Unlike wolves which have been domesticated as dogs, pythons are a wild species and are unused to human companionship.

"Golden pythons are not normal pets. There are people who are afraid of large dogs: imagine how much they would be afraid of a large python," said Lü Ran, a netizen.

"The risk of the animal being raised in poor conditions is too great," said Huang Haixin, another netizen. "It is an animal's instinct to attack when frightened."

Tian Hengjiu, who heads up the Beijing Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, said

snakes often attack people and are not suitable to keep as pets. Even breeders stay away from them except feeding and cleaning up after them, he said.

But keepers of exotic animals disagree.

"In fact, people who have exotics are usually very careful about regulating the temperature, light and humidity of their pet's environment," said Zhen Zhiming, a breeder of exotic pets. "Most people keep exotics such as snakes, lizards and scorpions. These are extremely timid creatures that like to hide unless you deliberately upset them."

In June, the owner of a pet Japanese monkey ran into similar trouble when netizens posted pictures of him taking his pet to a restaurant.

That time, the opposing arti-

cle was written by Tan Jingzhi, a Ph.D candidate studying evolutionary anthropology at Duke University. In his diatribe on Songshuhui.net, Tan said monkeys spread deadly viruses and can bite people, and that feeding monkeys is illegal.

Shen's article pointed out it is legal to own those rare animals as long as you have a license to feed them.

"Getting a license for a protected pet is difficult, and it would likely bankrupt an independent owner," said a 22-year-old owner of exotic dogs and snakes who refused to be named.

"Raising an exotic pet is not necessarily illegal: not all exotic pets are protected species. Our country even encourages the taming of wild animals. I would not oppose any exotic animal

ownership unless it is the result of hunting," Shen said.

"Few people raise exotics. Anyone caught smuggling them is usually arrested either on landing in China or when departing the animal's country of origin," said Tian Hengjiu. "Anyone caught with animals obtained in this manner should be reported to the Forestry Bureau."

"If you don't have the time or ability to take care of it and can't promise not to abandon them, then you should not raise the pet - even if it is legal," Shen said.

"People all over the world have a blind spot when it comes to wild animals. They think it's good enough to feed and take care of them," Tan said. "It takes more than that to meet their natural requirements."

# TEDx event brings unconventional ideas

By Liu Xiaochen

What is considered conventional and what is not? TEDxBeijing 2012 tried to question the concept of "convention" by holding an event with unconventional talents this past Saturday.

The event took place at Garage Café in Zhongguancun, the city's technology and science hub.

TED is an American non-profit organization that stands for technology, entertainment and design. It's famous for its series of Web-broadcast talks.

Local TED lovers independently try to recreate the TED talks by working with communities, organizations and individuals here.

There were six speakers on Saturday. Zhou Lei, Li Yizhou, Gu Sen and Guo Yukuan talked about innovation and creativity in the Internet age. Liu Hainan and Shao Yibei spoke about the cultural aspects of creativity.

"The core of the social network is not information, as most of people think, but the information's receivers," said Zhou, founder of the social website Liurenxing, aimed at office workers. "The object of communication determines the content for dissemination."

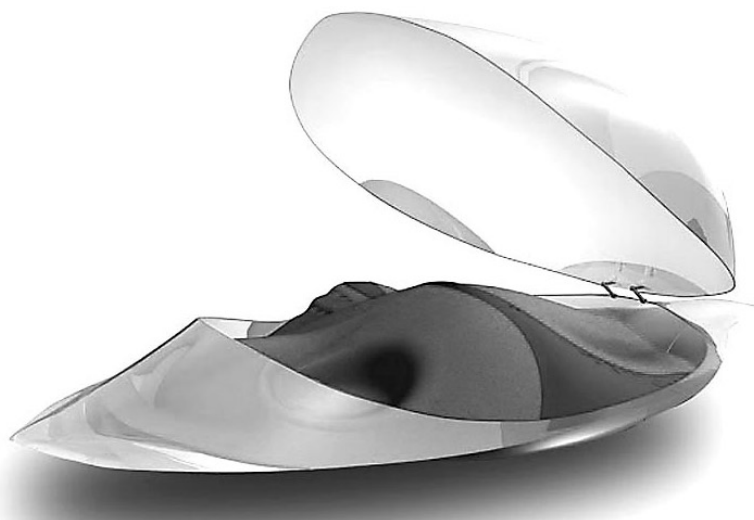
Talking about the next generation of the social network, Zhou said sharing was more important than privacy. He will release a mobile social networking application for sharing photos and activities among neighbors. He said neighbors can really change people's lives because they're the people who are always by your side.

Social networking isn't just a way for people to communicate, but also a way for scholars to research. For Gu, a student majoring in applied linguistics at Peking University and the unconventional author of the popular mathematics blog Matrix67, social networks are valuable platforms for behavioral research.

Gu shared some of his findings, such as the fact that the frequency of certain words used between men and women are different, reflecting gender differences. His research has been published in *Programmer* magazine.

"The success of social networks is based on the openness of the platform," said Guo Yukuan, senior media professional. "Actually, a lot of enterprises' success also lies in how they operate such a platform."

Li, a designer at the Design Strategy Prototype Innovation Institute of Tsinghua University, has designed websites for several com-



Part of a presentation on new materials for a car design, by Li Yizhou

Photo provided by Li Yizhou



Shao Yibei, an indie singer, performs at TEDx event



Guo Yukuan talking about his idea of open platforms



Participants at TEDxBeijing

Photos provided by TEDxBeijing

panies. Understanding the barriers between enterprises and designers,

he focuses on fostering communication and getting people to learn more about digital resources.

"Enterprises should let designers in on the entire process, from manufacture to sales," Li said.

Liu spoke about his life in art.

"I found that making documentaries wasn't about just using technology and focusing on society," said Liu, who began making documentaries about Chinese students study-

ing in the US in 2010. "It should also be poetic, because every moment recorded is history."

There were 150 participants from all fields. During tea break, they mingled with the speakers to discuss further.

"This was a good chance for me to learn what I can't learn from school," said a Tsinghua student who attended. "Everyone here is from different industries, and can give me different points of view."

## Event

### Second Beijing Restaurant Week to start soon

After a successful event in March, the second Beijing Restaurant Week has been scheduled for September.

A large selection of top restaurants will be involved, offering set three-course menus at 78 to 118 yuan for lunch and 168 to 248 yuan for dinner.

In March, 25 participating restaurants received more than 3,000 reservations. For the coming event, the number of restaurants will double, with Inagiku, Cepe, Capital M, The Peninsula Huang Ting and Jing joining.

Liu Xun, a foodie, said she got great deals on restaurants like Maison Boulud for her parents last time. The trick is to book as soon as the online reservation begins.

Online reservations will begin at 4 pm on August 15. Anyone interested should check [restaurantweek.cn](http://restaurantweek.cn) for more details.

### Beijing Playhouse welcomes volunteers

The one and only English theater, Beijing Playhouse, will host a crew meeting next Tuesday. Anyone interested is welcome to come and learn how to be part of the crew or star in future productions.

The meeting will focus on the upcoming Christmas comedy *Show White*.

Where: Nearby the Tree, behind Sanlitun Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Tuesday, August 7, 6:30 pm

Email: [performance@beijingplayhouse.com](mailto:performance@beijingplayhouse.com)

### Expeditions in aesthetics and sustainability

*Examples to Follow!* is an exhibition in aesthetics and sustainability that opens on Sunday, curated by Adrienne Goehler. The exhibition is a project by the Goethe-Institut China, the Heinrich-Bill-Foundation, the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, German International Cooperation and Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, in cooperation with the German Embassy in Beijing.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, E06, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District

When: August 11 - September 4, except Monday

Tel: 5978 9530

(By Wei Ying)



# Race for the gold medal, but at what cost?

By Bao Chengrong

The second day of the 2012 London Olympics was full of cheers and tears.

Ye Shiwen, 16, became the darling of the nation with her victory in the women's 400-meter individual medley. But 17-year-old Zhou Jun was blasted by *City Times* as "the greatest shame" in China for scoring a zero.

Wu Jingbiao, a silver medalist in the men's weightlifting 56kg, cried and bowed 10 times to the audience, saying he was "sorry for the motherland, sorry for the weightlifting team and sorry for everyone."

"Why do our athletes suffer from enormous stress? Why should missing the gold medal be treated as a failure? Why do more athletes cry after the games than laugh?"

With these three questions, sports commentator Huang Jianxiang punched a dozen holes in China's love affair with Olympic gold.

Twelve years ago during the Sydney Olympics, Chinese media blasted the US Olympic broadcasters for airing a total medal tally instead of a gold medal tally. They said it was a trick to inflate the value of the US' achievements as it fell behind in the race for gold medals.

Of course, that's when they found out the US had been using the total medal tally for decades, and China was the only one racing.

There is no doubt that China and the Chinese team are obsessed with gold medals. Four years ago, anyone who openly admitted to not caring about the 2008 Beijing Olympics was deemed shamefully unpatriotic.

The situation may be changing. Gradually.

Actually, many in the public have come to grips with the fact that they don't care nearly as much about the Olympics as the State General Administration of Sports wishes they would.

"No matter how many gold medals we win, it won't prove that China is a powerhouse in sports," one netizen Li Chengpeng wrote on his Sina microblog.

Now the debate is focused on the Whole Nation System behind the race for gold medals. The system relies on government money to train a select few athletes exclusively for international competitions.



Chinese athletes race for Olympic gold

CFP Photo

That system may have helped China win gold medals, but it may have to be revised if it hopes to win something even more valuable: respect.

## Slaves of the gold

"I seldom cheer for champions. I am usually too anxious about their future. Most weightlifters and divers come from rural areas. If they get injured during the Olympics, where will they end up? I also want to know what the authorities plan to do about the extremely low cultural qualities of the Chinese athletes. The interview with Wang Hao (champion of the women's synchronized 10-meter platform) was a shock to me. She had no sense of how to react or express herself."

— Ding Li, 24, teacher at *New Oriental*

"Sometimes I feel confused about my future. Will I become a coach? It seemed like I had such a bright future while I was boxing. Now, all the former champions I see are doing low-paying manual labor."

— Zhang Jianting, 27, former champion of *The Asian Boxing Championship*

## Athletes should have a broader focus

"Only recently have I realized that real winners don't always have medals to show for it. Anyone with a true sporting spirit can be a winner. Training abroad helped me to understand the kind of training that foreign athletes receive. Under the Chinese system, there is

an endless loop of train, break, train. In foreign countries, athletes read books and participate in other activities. Chinese athletes only get a break when they are exhausted. They have no personal interests. It's like they are trapped in a circle where the whole world is their sport. It's so wrong."

— Lu Ying, 23, silver medalist in the women's 100-meter butterfly

## Old system still best

"The Whole Nation System is not a Chinese invention. Many countries do the same thing but use a different

## Games of the XXIX Olympiad Change for the greater good

"Why am I so set against the Whole Nation System? Well, let's look at the past, the present and the future of our three big ball games: soccer, basketball and volleyball. Without a foundation in school and community sports, the system only helps China to succeed in alternative events. Mainstream events that actually have market potential all wither and die. Even a manager at the National Sports Bureau told me they are desperate for talented soccer, basketball and volleyball players. From winning silver medal in 1996 Olympics to becoming the champion at the 1999 World Cup, the women's soccer team was on fire. Eleven years later, they failed to snag any medal at the 2010 Asian Games.

In small and uncommon events, such as gymnastics and diving, China has always been a leader. The reason is Chinese athletes in those fields begin training at an unusually young age. In foreign countries, children between the ages of five and six are not allowed to train so hard. Gold medals are nothing but numbers. They do not help people to improve their living standards or help the government reach a higher level in sports. I don't oppose the system for events such as gymnastics, diving and shooting, but mainstream events would benefit more from a presence in the school system where

young people could participate. I can't accept a system that is nothing but a gold medal production line while depriving normal people of their access to athletics. Only gold medalists benefit from this system - the rest of the athletes are cannon fodder. The average athletic space available to each person is less than 1 square meter, and in 2009, Beijing spent less than 73 yuan per person providing fitness equipment for its citizens. It's the common people who are sacrificed for this system."

— Huang Jianxiang, 44, sports commentator

"The Olympic Games is back to being a global contest and the public is no longer limited to focusing on the Games. That free choice is a gratifying advance. Many years ago, as an undeveloped country, China looked to the Olympics to develop its collective identity and confidence. However, after we hosted our own Olympics, we realized that it takes more than gold medals to win respect. China needs to work on its deeper values if it wants to be strong. The happiness of its people is a better indicator of a country's success than its gold medal tally. The Whole Nation System needs to go through a revolution. Breaking it will require the efforts of the whole nation. I learned from a retired reporter that Americans seldom talk about the Olympics, let alone read any news related to it. Sports fans there care more about domestic championships in soccer, baseball and basketball."

— Cao Lin, 34, editor and commentator at *China Youth Daily*

**That Whole Nation System may have helped China win gold medals, but it may have to be revised if it hopes to win something even more valuable: respect.**

name. It's sad that we look down on our own good system that is admired throughout the developing world. As for questions about too much government money being poured into it, I think that money is well spent. Sports are a public undertaking, so why shouldn't the government support it? Civilians feel happy about seeing so many gold medals. It's one thing to want to reform the system to improve its efficiency, it's quite another to try and dispose of it."

— Wei Jizhong, 76, former senior advisor to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the





“ There are too many people for whom to feel sorry.  
You become desensitized being around so many. ”

# Cop Shop



Director Zhou Hao



By Niu Chen

*Cop Shop* (2010) and *Cop Shop II* (2011) document the daily operation of the police station at Guangzhou Railway Station, one of the busiest transportation hubs in the country.

Instead of recounting detailed stories of the officers, director Zhou Hao takes an observational approach and records what happens both in and around the police station during Spring Festival travel rush of 2010 and 2011.

The first *Cop Shop* focuses on the front desk of the police station, where a constant stream of characters from the square come to seek food, shelter, advice, train tickets and money.

Many come to ask for help with buying a ticket home after their money and ID cards are stolen by pickpockets. Police direct incoming people to an aid center where they can get free food, water, shelter and a ticket home.

However, many refuse to go to the center and demand money. The officers are seen repeatedly explaining they have no money to lend, though they occasionally

slip 5 or 10 yuan to those who are especially stubborn.

The director said that among all the characters who came to the police station, he was most impressed by one who regularly used the aid center to score free tickets.

The young man is seen walking into the police station as if it was his home. He walks to the dispenser to get hot water for his instant noodles. One of the officers tells him he has to go to the aid center to get food and water, and the man casually responds that he just came out from there.

The man said he sends his entire earnings back home each year and heads to the aid center to bum a ticket. When asked why he couldn't afford a ticket on a 1,000 yuan per month salary, he smiled and proudly said he earns 2,000 yuan per month.

The police said there are many people like him who take advantage of the system. Many come to the police

station to use its facilities and sleep on its couches.

In *Cop Shop II*, Zhou returns to the same station a year later and spots the same men.

However, it's vendors who are the focus in the second film. The increased flow of passengers during the Spring Festival rush draws many vendors who sell naan, pistachios and stools.

One of the vendors, a man from Xinjiang, is called into the station and ordered not to hawk his goods in the square anymore. As soon as he is released, he looks both ways and heads out into the crowd to resume selling. He is apprehended by the police several times during the film, and is eventually detained for a day in the station.

If I had a regular income, I wouldn't do this kind of business, he says. But I have to earn a living.

While many viewers said they sympathized with the underclass people in the film, the police said they've become numb.

There are too many people for whom to feel sorry. You become desensitized being around so many, said a security officer at the station. He said many don't deserve sympathy because they have no self-respect.

I remember there was one woman holding a baby in the detention cell. The baby was sleeping, but she kept waking it up to make it cry. She thought the crying might push us to release her, he said.

*Cop Shop II* also focuses on the officers' lives. During the Spring Festival season, police are often expected to work 24-hour shifts.

If it were an emergency like the snowstorms of 2008, I wouldn't mind working such long hours. But nothing special is happening now. This is supposed to be a time for family reunions, one of the officers said.

Some viewers asked whether the officers were behaving unusually well on camera, but Zhou said he did not think so. The police are human beings like you and me, even if many people do not regard them as such, he said.

Zhou was born in 1968 and used to be a photojournalist for Xinhua News Agency and *Southern Weekly*.

He began making films in 2001 with Houjie Township, his debut film that won the Black Pottery Award at the Yunnan Multi-culture Visual Festival.

His best-known documentary, *Senior Year*, won the Humanitarian Award for Best Documentary at the Hong Kong International Festival in 2006.



Photos provided by Zhou Hao



# Private or public?

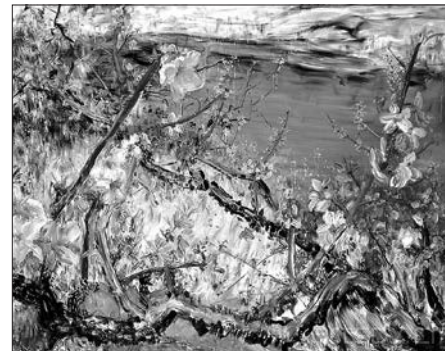
## Art museums blaze their own trails despite financial difficulties



Zhan Wang, Furniture with Landscape, installation, stainless steel, stone, furniture set

By Huang Daohen

What will an art museum sacrifice in artistic reputation to gain commercial worth? Can a museum retain its profitability without selling its soul? A glimpse at the country's burgeoning private art museums may provide an answer.



Zhou Chunyu, Peach Blossom in the South, painting, oil on canvas

Zheng Hao sits in his office at How Art Museum, which overlooks picturesque Huangpu River in Shanghai's Pudong District, preparing for his latest exhibition.

But planning for a contemporary art exhibition isn't the only job description for this curator. As the founder and president of Wenzhou Wanhe Group, which runs five-star Howard Johnson Onehome Hotel in Shanghai and Wenzhou, Zheng always has a full slate.

His most recent task, however, may be the toughest he's ever faced: how to get Wenzhou residents to see his art museum as separate from his hotel enterprise?

Recently opened How Art Museum is located in a multi-story, modern building, a striking sight next to the muddy byways along the Huangpu.

Zheng, an art graduate who majored in graphic design, burst onto China's art scene with Taste of the East, which opened How Art Museum earlier this year.

This exhibition presented as many as 20 contemporary artists of different ages working in media such as oil painting, drafting ink, sculpture and installation. Zheng collected their works over the past decade.

"I love art and have longed to become an artist myself," Zheng said. But like many of his friends, he chose to go into business after graduation. Zheng was a shoemaker and a shop owner before entering the hotel industry.

But Zheng said he never forgot about art. During business trips, he would visit museums across the world and buy works at auctions.

With his collection increasing, Zheng realized he could hold exhibitions instead of visiting them.

"It was a better way for me to get involved more directly in art," he said. "Back in the 1990s, people became art critics if they wanted to get involved (in art). Now they become exhibition planners."

Zheng said the earlier exhibitions he planned were sloppy and guerilla in nature, as he lacked management experience. "Now with How Art Museum, we're a regular force, and I can do the exhibition according to my own plan," he said.

Zheng is not the only one who cherishes his own art museum.

Many Chinese art collectors have opened private museums to satisfy the demand of the growing art scene.

Artist Yuan Xikun, also a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), is among the new owners. He established the country's first private art gallery, Jintai Art Museum, in 1997.

In a recent exhibition, Yuan auctioned all the works, many from renowned Chinese painters and calligraphers. The proceeds were donated to the Beijing Charity Association.

Yuan said his museum's aim is to introduce traditional Chinese art to the outside world.

Not everyone believes the purpose of these private museums is so

utilitarian, however. Huang Ye, veteran art dealer and director of Other Gallery in Beijing, said private art museums are defined as those run by private individuals instead of funded by the government.

Huang said there are currently three kinds of private collectors in China. One is the professor who collects relics for academic research. The second is the entrepreneur who sees it as an investment. The last is the ordinary man who collects as a hobby.

While all three kinds can end up with enough works to open a private museum, only rich businessman can really afford the maintenance costs.

"It's no coincidence that most are run by businessmen," Huang said, adding that many private museums are actually corporate art museums.

The fundamental difference is whether they make a profit. Huang said many private art museums in China are more like enterprises of the cultural industry. "It is a new form of using culture to serve the economy," he said. "Investors dis-

guise some art museums as an extension of their enterprise's brand image."

Wanhe's Zheng agreed. Though the boom in private museums

continues, many are struggling to stay alive because they are unwilling to completely merge art with commerce.

Li Songtang's Songtang-zhai Folk Sculpture Museum in Beijing, for instance, is strapped with financial problems. Since its founding in 2001, the museum has received few visitors. Li said he suffers huge losses each month.

Zheng said ideally he would like his How Art Museum to be transformed into a public museum run by a foundation instead of Wanhe Group's private assets.

Clearly, it will take time for Zheng to fulfill his plan, but Huang said private museums still serve a valuable role.

The private museums could fill the gap that many state-run cultural centers and museums neglect. "National museums often focus on important historical events and artifacts, while the advantage of private museums is they're free to concentrate on certain themes," Huang said.

Statistics from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage show that there are as many as 3,500 museums now operating in China, of which 450 are private.

To some extent, private museums are seen as showing the way in contemporary art. Private galleries in 798 Art Zone get plenty of visitors, and many of the exhibitions are avant-garde and controversial.

"Such diversity means visitors of private museums will go home with a brand new artistic experience," he said. "That's the big role private museums are filling in the country's soft-power build-up."



Zhao Wuji, untitled painting, oil on canvas

Photos provided by How Art Museum



# Cold noodles for hot days

By Annie Wei

No one wants to cook in a tiny kitchen, especially during hot summer days, when you might sweat all over the food.

This week, *Beijing Today* has found several places that serve cold noodles, which are easy to prepare and will cool you down.

## Yiwanju – 18 kinds of noodles

One of the long-established traditional Beijing noodle restaurants, Yiwanju opened a new outlet at East Third Ring Road three months ago.

The restaurant offers 18 different kinds of noodle sauces that can be paired with its hand-pulled noodles, starting at 16 yuan.

Zhajianguan, Old Beijing's famous fermented bean sauce noodle, is the most popular among locals. Other popular sauces include eggplant and diced pork, sliced beans and pork and sautéed tomatoes and eggs.

The restaurant also has many other traditional dishes, such as yangyou ma doufu (18 yuan), sautéed mungbean pulp. The dish is made of leftover mung bean pulp sautéed in either mutton fat or vegetable oil on a low flame to reduce the excess liquid. When it's cooked to almost ready, it's doused with sizzling hot chili oil. The taste is like smashed tofu but with more flavor.

Other dishes like cabbage in mustard sauce, dough pockets filled with pan-fried chives and eggs, and pork or deep-fried vegetarian balls are between 10 to 20 yuan.

Meat dishes, such as flash-fried lamb with scallion or beef, and fried meat-stuffed eggplant, are between 30 to 40 yuan.

It's a traditionally decorated restaurant with wooden tables and benches, with a gold fish pool at the entrance. Waitresses dressed in traditional customs greet customers.

There's also a nice terrace with lush trees.

Where: 8 Nongzhan Bei Lu, Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6766 6680

## T-Bazaar – cold noodles

The bazaar concept cafeteria of Traders Hotel presents two choices of cold noodles (starting from 35 yuan) during August.

Customers can enjoy its chewy noo-

dles, fresh vegetables, crispy nuts and special sauces.

Where: Lobby floor, Traders Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 6 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6505 2277 ext. 35

## DIY Korean cold noodles

Korean cold noodles are popular during the summer because they are delicious and icy. Most are priced from 15 yuan.

However, cold noodles available from small Korean restaurants use a lot of MSG or chicken extract.

To eat healthier, you can make it yourself.

The chewy buckwheat noodles are available from many local supermarkets. Make sure you boil a large pot of water so the noodles can swim and won't stick to each other.

The secret to its flavor lies in the soup. In traditional Korean recipes, the soup is stewed with beef and chicken. Add enough ice in the soup and prepare it with vinegar, soy sauce, salt, sugar, miso, ginger and cucumber slices, minced garlic, kimchi and a slice of apple.



Cold noodle at T-Bazaar, 35 yuan

Photo provided by Traders Hotel



Avocado mosaic, 45 yuan

Photo by Guo Yao

## Irresistible salad at Irresistible Café

By Guo Yao

Two years ago, three friends who met in Prague decided to share their love for Czech and Chinese culture by opening a cafe. Soon after, they started Irresistible Café in Beijing.

Hidden in Mao'er Hutong near Nanluogu Xiang, the cafe is a great place for people to eat, drink and read.

The cafe occupies the west room of a courtyard, while the east side is the residence of one of the owners, a Czech man who prefers to be called Filip.

Near the front of the cafe, customers will often find Ai Wanshun, another owner, who might be fixing his bike or tending to his five cats and one dog. Ai says he enjoys the cafe's feel as both a place to do business and live.

Salads are the specialty. We recommend the avocado mosaic (45 yuan) for those who want lots of veggies. It's served with ripe avocado, five types of greens, fennel, tomatoes with virgin olive oil, French traditional mustard and lime. Nuts provide crunchiness, while goat cheese guarantees satisfaction.

For meat-lovers, we recommend the Mediterranean chicken salad (50 yuan), which is made with lemon-marinated chicken breast, fresh vegetables and French vinaigrette.

The soup here has an authentic central European taste. Summer cold soup (35 yuan), with celery, yellow and red cherry tomatoes, avocado, fresh basil olive oil and ice cubes, is a great invention to help you through Beijing's hot summer. Autumn hot soup (50 yuan), with boneless beef, onions, tomatoes and paprika, is served with a slice of organic bread and a large spoon of sour cream.

As the two owners are certified tea-lovers, a great variety of tea is available here ranging from 25 to 32 yuan.

Five kinds of crepes are provided from 28 to 36 yuan. Czech beer (25 yuan) is imported directly from the Czech Republic, and coffee starts at 15 yuan.

## Irresistible Café

Where: 14 Mao'er Hutong, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 13260028123

Pearson Longman English World

listen to / answer

- ✗ I keep ringing him but he won't listen to the phone.  
✓ I keep ringing him but he won't answer the phone.



The Cantonese 聽 can mean 'listen', but in 聽電話 it means 'answer the phone', i.e. pick it up when it rings and have a conversation.

MTR / train

- ✗ I went to the station and got on an MTR.  
✓ I went to the MTR station and got on a train.



The MTR is the name of the whole system.  
When you talk about a specific MTR vehicle, it is a 'train' with several 'carriages':

✓ I got in the first carriage of the train.

## Exercise

### Choose the correct words:

- listen to / answer  
I asked my brother to \_\_\_\_\_ the phone as I was busy.
- MTR / train
  - I don't like traveling on the \_\_\_\_\_ because it's underground and there's no view.
  - We went a long way down by escalator then waited on the platform for a (n) \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: 1. answer 2. a. MTR b. train



Book title:

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

资料来源: Language Leader (Pre-intermediate) by Ian Lebeau and Gareth Rees (Pearson Longman)



# Paint choices

By Annie Wei

When it comes to paint, there's no such thing as "too safe" or "too environmental," considering you'll be surrounded by the product on your walls day and night.

*Beijing Today* spoke with Jeff Casagrande, art director of Orca Colors, this week to get recommendations for paint.

Casagrande is the only foreigner who runs a retail paint store in Shunyi, where many foreigners come to him for advice.

He followed his wife to China seven years ago when she got a job. Seeing a booming construction scene in China, the couple decided to start a paint store in Shunyi, which has been open for four years.

The store sells four brands, Sherwin Williams, Modern Masters, Expressions Gallery and Rust Oleum.

When a customer walks in, Casagrande will ask what his or her purpose is.

For basic purpose (walls), Casagrande pointed to a bottle of Sherwin Williams extra white (560 yuan for retail, 3.66 liters), saying, "It can cover 20 square meters with two coats."

Sherwin Williams meets the California environmental standard, which is the highest



Jeff Casagrande, art director of Orca Color

Photos provided by Orca Colors

paint requirement in the US.

Casagrande has many colors available.

"We encourage customers to use colors," he said. Most locals prefer white or beige because they're traditional, but Casagrande thinks they're boring.

"The paints that Chinese people like are very different from what Americans or Europeans use," he said.

The store also has a wide color palette. Anyone interested can check [orcacolors.com](http://orcacolors.com).

When a customer selects the paint, Casagrande is always happy to impart some knowledge.

"Latex paint is water-based, and Alkyd is oil-based," he said. "Alkyd has high VOC (violent organic compounds), which is used

sparingly in the US."

Although local markets may carry such paints, people should beware of fakes.

Even for international brands manufactured for the Chinese market, many residents said the product's texture is different.

"I saw 18 liters of paint selling at 300 or 400 yuan, and it must be fake," Casa-

grande said.

Many customers ask him the same question: "How long before I can move back to a newly painted room?"

In the local interior design industry, people suggest emptying the apartment for three months.

Casagrande said someone can sleep in the room on the same day, if the paint is safe.

Depending on one's budget, Casagrande's store also has cheaper paints, starting at 400 yuan per gallon.

For customers who have a rooftop terrace or a garden, Orca also has UV-inhabited paint specially for outdoor purposes.

For people who prefer to customize their own furniture, they can also find varnish from brand Master Clear, a protective clear topcoat at 600 yuan per gallon.

Casagrande said he also takes painting jobs, charging 12 yuan per square meter.

"It's a fun thing to do on the weekend," he said.

**Orca Colors**  
**Shunyi Design Studio**

Where: Houshayu Baixinzhuang, Tianbei Lu, Shunyi District

Tel: 13466051239 (English)



The ultimate in durability and washability, low VOC, 680 yuan per gallon



Iron-based paint that makes a surface to attract magnets, 680 yuan per kit



Zero VOC paint recommended for children's rooms or for those with respiratory problems, 544 per gallon



Low VOC for repainting projects, 427 yuan per gallon